



Heybridge U3A

News Sheet Number 10

December 2009

Contacts:	Ruth Tyler	Chairman	01621 869865
	Peter Thorpe	Vice Chairman	01621 850828

From the Chairman

My contribution this month will be brief, as I am off on a short holiday tomorrow for a week. During last month I have managed to join in a delightful Luncheon Club meal, and have attended my first Scrabble Meeting, which was enormous fun; nine players, and we managed to play three separate groups of two games each. The true spirit of U3A. I also learned a whole lot of words previously unknown to me; mostly of two letters each!!

The really good news is that Lois Wilmot is home again after her fall in August. She is still in considerable pain, and has very limited movement, but being the Lois we all know, she is putting on a bright smile. Perhaps it will not be too long before she can get back to her painting class, but I guess bird watching will have to wait a bit longer.

In March of 2010 the Heybridge U3A will be holding its first AGM. Details about this event are to be published in the coming issues of this News Sheet.

As this is the last News Sheet for this year, may I wish you all a truly joyful Christmas.

Ruth

From the Editor

Autumn is now with us and I have already started thinking about the January 2010 issue. First, I was thinking that the last Friday of the month is Christmas Day. On that day we will all be wondering what our presents are going to be, what we will be eating and drinking and what our grandchildren have been or will get up to. The week before Christmas is quiet in U3A terms. I have therefore decided that I will ask all contributors to let me have their contributions a week earlier; Friday 18th December.

My second thought brings me to New Years Resolutions. I would like to check that the content and layout of the News Sheet is what you want. Am I missing issues or subjects that you want to hear about? Do you read the News Sheet, or is it

becoming repetitive? Please write, email or tell me and I will try and rectify or amend the News Sheet.

My third thought relates to the various Group Programmes or Agenda's for the coming year. If you would like to produce and distribute them electronically to those with email addresses, I can do this for you. Please discuss when you see me at the monthly meeting.

I would like to draw all the members attention to the Meeting on the 8th January when we will be able to socialize for another hour after our normal finishing time (14.00 through to 17.00). See Social Secretary's Report below.

Most will know the publication procedure. Copy should be with me by the Friday 18th of December. Please continue to send details to me by email at ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with U3A in the title. Typed copy can also be provided. Alternatively phone me, Ian Newman, at 01621 891184 or see me at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy. Publication will take place between Christmas and the New Year.

Diary of meetings, events, visits etc., can, as usual, be found on the last page.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 11th December, starting at the normal time of 14.00 in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

The speaker at the December meeting will be Maureen Scollan with a talk entitled "Paragon or Prude in the Police Force".

At the January meeting we have Arthur Brooks with music from the days of the Music Hall, which will dovetail into the New Year Festivities. This should be a very enjoyable afternoon.

In February Ray Spiller will give a talk on "Festive Records of the Hit Parade".

U3A News

Your personal copy of the October 2009 'U3A News' magazine is now available. Please pick up your copy of the magazine. They can be found at the back of the hall at the next monthly meeting.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

We have come along way since our first meeting in February this year. With the help of some special people who have already agreed to be COGs our members have the choice of 15 groups to join. These 15 groups offer a wide range of interesting subjects to enjoy together. Our members are also allowed to join two of The Blackwater U3A groups making a total of 17 groups available at present. This is a splendid achievement and I am certain that the number of interest groups will continue to grow as we mature as a U3A. We thank our COGs for their dedication and enthusiasm and we hope that they find being a COG is a rewarding experience.

There are two more groups, which look as though they will start shortly.

Liz Bazzard has agreed to get the **Bridge Group** going again and we hope that you will give her your full support. Liz has some interesting ideas regarding this group and I am certain that you will be welcome if you want to learn more about this fascinating and skilful game.

Peter Thorpe has agreed to start the **Photography Group**. Twelve members have completed a questionnaire regarding their interest in photography. It seems that they are keen to meet together to take photos, to discuss them and perhaps discover why some shots look better than others. Most members use digital cameras and the group will therefore concentrate on digital photography. There will be a short meeting after the group reports at the Main Meeting on 11th December to establish a day, time and venue for the regular Photography Group meeting. Any member who is interested in joining this group is welcome whether they have completed an interest questionnaire or not.

It is noticeable that most members of the Steering Committee not only regularly attend group meetings but are also COGs. Your committee is working very hard to establish the Heybridge U3A as a strong and viable U3A within the Maldon district; please help them by becoming a COG. We have names on lists for subjects of interest and there are unlimited blank forms for subjects not yet suggested!

Please remember the second principle of the U3A.

Peter Thorpe

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator	Telephone Number
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Bridge	Lisbeth Bazzard	01621 843208
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Esperanto	Peter Groves	01245 227018
Family History	Joint with Blackwater Roger Smith *	*01621 843054
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Beth Jeffries	01621 853403
Maritime & Coastal	Brenda Dewar	01245 400492
Painting	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Theatre	Gill Bridle & Janet Morley	01621 892587 & 01621 892626
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Jan Stroud	01621 859766

Membership Secretary

If you are not a member and wish to join, please contact Lisbeth Bazzard on 01621 843208 or by email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net You can also write to her at 2, Silver Street, Maldon, Essex. CM9 4QE or speak to her at the monthly meeting.

From the Treasurer

There is nothing to report this month.

From the Secretary

There is nothing to report this month.

From the Social Secretary

The first social activity that is being provided by the Heybridge U3A is an informal gathering following the January monthly meeting at Plantation Hall. The speaker whose subject is "Old Time Musical Hall" has agreed to stay and provide a selection of music and there will be a light buffet with alcoholic and soft drinks provided. It would be helpful if those intending to stay and enjoy the hospitality would indicate before the 1st January 2010 to either Martyn or Madeleine Garwood at the December monthly meeting, by phoning 01621 892499 or by email, m.garwood@sky.com, so that we can suitably cater for the numbers attending. It should be an enjoyable social event and we would like to see as many in attendance as possible.

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The members of the Art Group continue to increase and everyone enjoys the meetings on a Friday afternoon both artistically and socially. This month we celebrated (with cream cakes) Mike's 70th birthday and we all wish him many happy returns. Our love and best wishes go out to Lois Wilmot who has not yet returned to the meetings since falling and breaking her hip in August. We all wish her well and look forward to seeing her back in the group very soon.

Bird Watching

The group decided to visit Goldhanger for our November meeting. It was a bright but cold morning as we set out for a circular walk led by Roger round the sea wall and back through the fields to the village.

As we were near the water we saw the estuary birds and waders but not many field birds. We had a great couple of hours and agreed it was a enjoyable way to spend the morning.

If you would like to join us our next outing is 22nd January to Abberton Reservoir Nature Reserve. No experience needed just your company.

My email address is symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Maureen

Bridge Group

The first Bridge session took place at my house on the evening of Wednesday 2nd December. Eight

people came that evening of the fourteen people in the group. Not bad for a start! Two tables played and nobody fell out. Experience varied from 18 months to 51 years. Come and join us before we are all experts. We decided to make the Tuesday 19th January Bridge afternoon. Venue(s) has yet to be decided. I will circulate a list of Bridge Members telephone numbers so that 4's can be arranged.

Liz Bazzard

Computer Group

The Computer Group met on the 19th November in the Claydon Room at the Plantation Hall. Vivienne organised the refreshments. It was agreed that the payment of £6.00 per quarter would continue to fund the hire of the room.

Five laptops were in use this month using the internet connection that is available. Discussion on the topic of photographs occupied most of the two hour session. The subject matter covered was in relation to the downloading from a camera, the saving of the data and simple photograph manipulation.

The next Computer Group session will be on December 17th December when Pat will lead the group through the production of cards; Christmas (last minute), New Year and birthdays.

We will continue the discussions that were ongoing from previous meetings during the second half of the meeting or continue with the production of cards.

Peter Thorpe gave a demonstration of what can be achieved with photographs and music by using a computer. It was light hearted and enjoyed by all.

Coastal and Marine Group

Once again we had a very enjoyable meeting at the Blue Boar. Everyone just buzzed with really good ideas for the Group and between us we came up with an interesting programme for the first six months. Watch out for full details in next month's Newsletter. We decided that we would have our meetings on the third Friday of the month, as this seemed to be the most convenient for everyone. Our next meeting will be at the Blue Boar on the 19th February and Glenn Cousins has kindly agreed to start off our programme with a talk. We look forward to a very exciting and interesting 2010, with thanks to everyone for being so enthusiastic.

Discussion Coffee Morning

Our monthly discussion on 20th November was as always a jovial affair and was held at the home of

Margaret Clark. As well as the usual refreshments, we were provided with a slice of excellent home made Dundee cake. The next discussion meeting will be in the New Year on 15 January at Gill Thornes' house. Details will be available at the next U3A meeting or phone Margaret Brown on 01621 854885 for details.

Gardening Group

Watch this space in the New Year for details about the Gardening Group.

Local History Group (LHG)

At our meeting in November, the members of the local history group enjoyed some excellent input from Beryl Claydon about the various Goldhanger Road caravan parks and from Bill Oliver about the Zeppelins of WW1, of which there were a few very close encounters in these parts. Ellen Hedly again came up trumps with some of her vast collection of local postcards and other memorabilia. These items further illustrated Beryl and Bill's stories. Carol provided a mystery object. The twelve members present enjoyed a lot of interaction and a very interesting afternoon.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are expecting Michael Emmett for our December meeting. If you would like to join us for this, please contact Carol Greenhalgh on 01621 2840339 or email george.smeed@virgin.net.

Luncheon Group

Our last luncheon of 2009 was held at The Six Bells, Boreham. Eighteen people attended and everyone seemed to enjoy the meal.

I am investigating going to The College in Colchester who, I understand, do a very good lunch, (also they do a pamper day) if anyone is interested? It may have to be in February as obviously they are on holiday over Christmas.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas dinner and look forward to lunching with you all in 2010.

Petanque Group

For the first time since we started playing in September, the weather did beat us on 23rd November, as it was very wet and with a strong wind. We all cried off. However, we shall play on 30th November for the last time this autumn unless someone rings round during the winter to get up a game. It only needs two to play! We have all enjoyed our sessions, the fresh air and exercise is good, and I hope that interested people will turn up

in March. The date of is to be announced in the New Year.

Barbara Barbrook

Reading and Books Group

The Book Group met in November to discuss Esther Freud's, 'The Sea House', a book which was not universally popular and tended to leave most members feeling confused and disappointed.

Set locally in Suffolk it was a story of relationships both new and from the past. It failed however to excite or provide new insights. It did however provoke interesting discussion.

It was decided that apart from the agreed monthly read, members of the group would introduce for discussion, other books of their own choice that they had read during the month. It was thought this might be a good way of introducing to each other more authors and stories.

The next meeting will take place at the home of Ann Lees 01245225153 on Wednesday 16th December at 2.30pm. Please ring Ann (01245 225153) if you wish to join us.

Scrabble

Nine members came to the November meeting at the home of our newest member, Jan Olley. Three groups of three had two friendly competitions each, interspersed with tea and biscuits – a very pleasant afternoon. By mutual consent the December meeting on 23rd December has been cancelled and the following arranged:

- Wednesday 27th January at Jan Olley's; ring 01621 815223.
- Wednesday 24th February at Pam Archer's; ring 01621 815379.
- Wednesday 31st March at Beryl Claydon's; ring 01621 852082.
- Wednesday 28th April at Ruth Tyler's; ring 01621 869865.

Please ring the hostess for each meeting if you are able to join in.

More members are welcome for the winter months, but as our afternoons are at in members' homes, it might be necessary to have two groups.

Ruth Tyler 01621 869865.

Threads and Fabrics

At our meeting on the 8th December, we will again be working on our own projects. Also, we are

intending to discuss our programme for the first part of next year. The date of our January meeting will be available at the next U3A meeting.

Anybody who is interested in joining us, can contact either Anne on 01621 850865 or Pat on 01621 891184.

We would like to wish all members of U3A a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year.

Walking

Thursday 12th November was another beautiful sunny autumn afternoon. Our walking group were remarkably lucky yet again with the conditions. People and dogs met in Danbury at the car park by Runsell Lane. Led by John, who knows the area well, we all enjoyed a walk around the nature reserve through Scrubs Wood and Poors' Piece before returning to our cars. The afternoon was completed by some of us with tea and cakes on Danbury Green: most satisfactory!

The next outing will be on Thurs 10 December with a 'pub walk' around East Mersea meeting at the Dog & Pheasant at 10:30. We will then follow either the longer or shorter route (depending on weather, thirst etc) before returning to the pub for lunch. Access across the Strood will not be a problem, as tides have been checked. Please contact me (email or phone 01621 850618) if you would like to come, and I will try to co-ordinate transport so as not to need too many cars

Elizabeth

Weekender

To say I was impressed is an understatement. What an amazing evening at the West Maldon Community Centre on 21st November; after four rounds, the Weekenders quiz team were joint first; after seven

rounds they were fifth and they finished a very respectable joint second out of thirteen teams. Our intrepid team on this occasion comprised Pamela, Gill, Elizabeth, Unda, Sally and Pat. Very well done ladies.

Please Note: The time of our Coffee Morning on 19th December at Oliver's Nurseries, Witham, has been changed from 11.00 to 10.00.

Group Members have been given a list of names and phone numbers of current Weekenders members to contact. Sometimes there is quite a lot going on which doesn't reach the diary page. Christmas and New Year can be a particularly difficult time for some when you are on your own so try to stay in touch if you can. New members and suggestions always welcome.

For information on the group, please phone Jan Stroud 01621 859766.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you from the Weekenders.

Letters to the Editor

None this month.

Members HELP

Your views and input are needed for all future editions of the News Sheet. This can be in the form of reports about activities undertaken, activities to come, letters to the Editor or anything else that you think may interest other members.

Program of Meetings and Visits

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7th December	7	8	9	10 Walking 13.30	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12	13
14th December	14	15 Local History 14.00	16 Book Group 14.30	17 Computer 13.00	18 Painting 14.00 Submit News Sheet text and definitely before Christmas	19 Week - ender Coffee at Olivers 10.00	20
21st December	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28th December	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4th January	4	5	6	7	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9	10
11th January	11	12 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	13	14 Walking 13.30	15 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	16	17
18th January	18	19 Local History 14.00	20 Book Group 14.30	21 Computer 13.00	22 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching 10.00	23	24
25th January	25	26 Bridge afternoon	27 Scrabble 14.00	28	29 Painting 14.00	30	31

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.